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THINK BIG  WE DO™

PHYSICAL THERAPY



University of Rhode Island
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program



**Fall
arrives
at URI**

Physical Therapy #1 Society

The Physical Therapy #1 Society was established in 2016 by its founding members. Membership in the society is voluntary, and inclusive to those who attained the top academic ranking in their physical therapy graduating class at the University of Rhode Island. The purpose of the society is as follows:

- Recognize in perpetuity individuals who have achieved the #1 academic class ranking
- Serve as an advisory group and communication channel to the URI PT Department Chair as members see fit
- Identify and contribute to opportunities that would foster recognition for future #1 ranked individuals in each class

If you graduated with the highest GPA in your URI DPT class, contact Dr. Konin to learn more!

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Words from the Director



As with past newsletters, there are so many great things to report from our Department of Physical Therapy. First and foremost, I sincerely want to thank **EVERYONE** for their overwhelming support during our self-study preparation and CAPTE site visit. The accreditation process can be daunting, yet it can also be so rewarding. As you will read about, URI DPT received the full re-accreditation and was commended for a lot of the areas that we take great pride in. Many of you took an active role in the process, and all of you play a role in one way or another in our continued success. For that, I say THANK YOU! Next summer's APTA Annual Conference – NEXT – will be held in Boston. To celebrate our achievement, along with the many other new and exciting happenings at URI, we will host a reception at the event. Stay tuned for more details and please plan to attend as our guest!

Jeff Konin Ph.D, PT, ATC, FACSM, FNATA
Professor and Chair

Distinguished Lecture Series

On October 1st, 2016, the University of Rhode Island Physical Therapy School held its 3rd annual Distinguished Lecture Series. The guest speaker was Dr. Irene Davis who is the founding director of the Spaulding National Running Center and professor at the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School. The lecture was on the topic of “Innovative Approaches to the Injured Runner.” Dr. Davis did an excellent job of discussing each joint’s biomechanical features and its relation to common injuries. She was engaging with the audience and encouraged the spectators to participate in the presentation. She was able to provide a whole new way of looking at prevention of lower extremity injuries as well as a detailed description of the rehabilitation program that she uses. Overall, Dr. Davis was an exceptional speaker and gave a whole new perspective to runner related injuries.

-Hannah Walton, SPT



From left to right: Alexander Dien, Dr. Irene Davis, Justin Jacapraro, Hannah Walton

Did you know...

We have created a link to job openings for our alumni

<http://web.uri.edu/physical-therapy/physical-therapy-jobs/>

10 is More Than Just a Number

The University of Rhode Island has been a CAPTE accredited physical therapy program since 1991. The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) is the only recognized accrediting agency for physical therapy and physical therapy assistant programs. This process regularly ensures students in such programs are receiving the proper education to prepare them for their future roles as practicing clinicians. The aspiration of each program under this review is to receive the maximum allowable accreditation of ten years. During our last review in 2005, CAPTE awarded the University of Rhode Island's Physical Therapy Program the highest seal of approval, a 10-year accreditation.

This past spring, URI's DPT program continued its tradition of excellence by receiving that same recognition. The review took place over the course of three days during last fall's semester. Students, faculty, alumni, administration and clinical instructors all played a key role in the accrediting visit, and the final outcome. In their write up, the site visiting team all noted the dean, provost, and president's very positive reviews of Dr. Konin's leadership. CAPTE's final review highlighted the program's success pointing to the "Overall licensure pass rate of 100%, and employment rate of 100% within 6 months of graduation". This acknowledgement would not have been possible without the tremendous preparation we receive from our faculty.

The program wishes to thank all of those involved in the preparation, execution, and the summation of this site visit. The aid of all those directly and indirectly involved in this process did not go unnoticed by the department. The next accreditation review is scheduled for the fall of 2025. Keep up the amazing work so we can celebrate this same accomplishment again a decade from now!

RHODY RHODY RHODY! RAMS RAMS RAMS!



**The URI Department of Physical Therapy is back on social media!
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates about
department news and student activities!**

www.facebook.com/uridpt
www.twitter.com/URI_DPT

Donor Highlight

David Pavao, DPT, OCS, CSCS, is a 2009 graduate of URI's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. He is a Clinic Director and Partner at Performance Physical Therapy, as well as an adjunct professor who teaches Musculoskeletal Therapeutics to URI DPT students. He has remained involved in URI's program at many levels since he graduated. We reached out to him to hear about some of his latest accomplishments and how he stays involved with the program.

Q: I heard that you recently got a new credential. Congratulations! Would you like to tell us about that?

A: Yes, thanks. My colleague Yvonne Swanson and I completed Evidence In Motion's Executive Private Practice Management Certification. I'd like to think this program elevated my practice as a manager and leader in the same way that my orthopedic residency elevated my practice as a clinician.

Q: What is one of your favorite things about the URI DPT program?

A: I continue to tell current URI students that I meet in class or on clinicals that they can be very confident that URI's program will give them all of the ability and resources they need to practice at a high level in whatever area of PT they choose. Sometimes as a student you can be unsure of your ability when you head out on that first clinical, so it's important to know that you do have what it takes and you just need to supply the time and effort.

Q: How do you stay involved with the program?

A: I'm very lucky to have the opportunity to teach first year students each spring in PHT550 (Musculoskeletal Therapeutics I). My colleagues and I also love having students at all levels in the clinic, from ICE (Integrated Clinical Experience) students to full time clinical affiliations to hiring great URI grads to join our team.

Q: Why do you feel it's important to donate to the program?

A: Not only am I happy to give back to a program that has given me so much in return, but I truly feel that Dr. Konin and all of the faculty and staff in URI's DPT program have the best interest of current and future students at heart and will continue to take steps to elevate the program.

Thank you, Dr. Pavao for your continued support!

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Jenn Colebourn graduated from University of Rhode Island physical therapy program in 1999, yet when Dr. Colebourn began developing her career, physical therapy is not where she initially saw herself. After earning her bachelors of science in biology from the University of Hartford in '94, Dr. Colebourn moved on to the University of Pennsylvania with plans to earn a PhD in immunology. As she was working towards her degree, she realized that she missed having her hands in clinical work and decided it was time to change her course. She looked back at a fellowship she had done during her undergraduate career during which she was researching balance and gait in elderly populations. It was then that she realized physical therapy was where she wanted to be.

During her time at the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Colebourn helped fund her way through the program by participating in fellowships through Eleanor Slater Hospital and graduate assistantships under Dr. Peter Blanpied. Her main interests were in the field of Biomechanics and Pathokinesiology and she found herself a mentor in Mario Santamassimo.

After graduating from the physical therapy program, Dr. Colebourn began a career in outpatient orthopedics. She continued this line of work even after she and her husband moved to Connecticut to be closer to family. It was as she started to develop a family that she needed something a little different. She worked in homecare and outpatient physical therapy through Hartford Hospital, and she even dabbled a little in acute care. Sometime along her busy and diverse career path, Dr. Colebourn moved with her family to Massachusetts and attended Northeastern University where she received her Doctorate with an emphasis in pediatrics. This brings us to where she is now, working in a school system with pediatrics.

Dr. Colebourn recently received the wonderful news that her work is going to be published in the APTA's Ped PTJ. Her study is a case report of a school-age child with Autism. In the case, a behavioral therapist and a physical therapist worked together to help the child learn to throw a ball. Dr. Colebourn successfully displayed the benefits of teaching other staff members how to work on certain elements of the physical therapy treatments that they can then carry out during the week without the presence of the physical therapist. By just working on the defined skills 10min, 4 days a week, the child was able to successfully learn the skill of overhead throwing to the point that he was able to successfully play catch. When follow up data was collected after the summer break, the child showed even greater improvements as he had continued to work on throwing as he played with his brother at home. Dr. Colebourn expressed how amazing it was to see a child who would typically be running around with no direction in play, be able to engage successfully in interactions with peers, simply because of the addition of collaboration into his treatment. She hopes that this will increase the use of collaboration in the treatment of pediatrics, to help improve outcomes. Continued on page 6...

During her work in the pediatric population, Dr. Colebourn recognized a major gap in literature. Specifically, there is little help when it comes to working with children with Autism and there are no models or practice guidelines for treatment in this population. Physical therapists have to work with sets of principles they have learned through experience and try to figure things out as they go along. Dr. Colebourn wanted to begin to develop guidelines for future therapists to follow. Her main focus was to show the importance of collaboration in the school system. She states that in outpatient practice, physical therapists impress on their patients that physical therapy has to be a team effort. The therapist puts in some of the work, but the patient will not get better unless they put in effort of their own outside of the clinic. Dr. Colebourn recognized that this is not something that is easily impressed on a child. Therefore, she proposed that physical therapists utilize other staff members at the school to help children reach their goals outside of physical therapy treatments. Dr. Colebourn asserts that by working together with other staff members, physical therapists can increase the effective time with patients from one 30 minute session a week up to 210 total minutes a week.

Dr. Colebourn closed her conversation stating that if she was asked what she was going to do with her life 20 years ago, she would have never thought she would be working with pediatrics. Now, she is having her successful case report published. She advised that it is about being flexible and being in tune to where life is taking you. Congratulations Dr. Jenn Colebourn, and on behalf of the current and future students of the University of Rhode Island Physical Therapy program, good luck on your continuing endeavors!



Behind the Scenes

The graduate assistants for our Summer and Fall semesters have put in hard work to make these articles possible. Producing a newsletter of the program's accomplishments each semester is only one job on top of their commitment to the first year class pairing. To recognize their dedication, the GAs from this year are listed below:

Summer 2016

- Kendra-lynn Kohanski
- Kyle Lopresti

Fall 2016:

Top Row Left to Right:

Glenda Vasquez, Riley Bouchard,
Lucas Bartone, Caroline Bertram,
Amanda Chirlin, Danielle Moreau

Bottom Row:

Kelsey Lotti, Alison O'Brien



New College, New Dean: Dr. Gary Liguori

Beginning in the fall of 2016, the physical therapy program joined the new College of Health Sciences. On Tuesday October 18, 2016 PT students sat down with the new Dean, Dr. Gary Liguori to get to know a little more about him. A little bit on Dean Liguori's background prior to coming to URI:

Dean Liguori moved from the Northeast out to The University of Central Missouri to study fitness and wellness in college. From there, he went on to earn his Master of Science degree from East Stroudsburg University in Cardiac Rehabilitation and Exercise Science. Finally, Dean Liguori received a Ph.D. in wellness from North Dakota State University.

From there he stayed at North Dakota State University and went on to teach and became the graduate coordinator in the Department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences. After teaching for several years, he became the head of the Department of Health and Human Performance at University of Tennessee Chattanooga. He had a passion for being in the classroom and working directly with students.

Recently, Dean Liguori has made the move back to the northeast because he was drawn in to the unique opportunity of being the inaugural dean of the brand new college here at URI. This is the first time in over forty years that the University has formed a new college.

Fun Facts:

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Long Island, NY

Q: What is your favorite part about New England thus far?

A: The Beach

Q: What is your favorite sport?

A: Baseball and Track and Field

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Pizza (preferably NY Style)

Q: What is your favorite drink?

A: Diet Coke

Now let's get down to business...

From Left to Right:

Dean Gary Liguori;

Alison O'Brien, SPT;

Glenda Vasquez, SPT;

Kelsey Lotti, SPT.



We talked with the Dean about his interests in Inter-professional Education, in terms of his goals and ideas for the college, as well as what we are already accomplishing in the physical therapy department. With the new Academic Health Collaborative in our college, the Dean believes his strengths in outreach and pooling resources will benefit the success of this program. Furthermore, Dean Liguori has a long-term goal of pooling existing clinics on campus under one roof to form one full service clinic between disciplines.

Continued on page 8...

Continued from page 7:

When asked about his goals, the Dean made it clear that he is focusing on short-term goals to set the framework. His 3 main goals are:

1. To become efficient at everything including course delivery
2. Having the necessary resources to continue to prepare students at an excellent level.
3. Be competitive in the research environment by going after federal funding. In his own words, “We’ve got to get the right people on the bus in the right seats.”

He believes that personnel management will be important in accomplishing these goals. The Dean is looking to decrease the overall anxiety of a new college as well as having all employees see their own value in this endeavor. In conclusion, it was a pleasure getting to know the Dean and his vision for the new college, and we look forward to working with him in the future!

Broadening our Horizons

The University of Rhode Island doctorate of physical therapy program strives to expand students’ horizons beyond the walls of West Independence Way. As part of the program, physical therapy students at the University of Rhode Island must take part in what is known as a “Broadening” experience. This experience is designed to expose students to physical therapy and healthcare outside of Rhode Island. Quite frequently, this takes students outside of the country. Students choose where they would like to go, picking from a group of already planned trips, or generating one of their own. Traditionally, the broadening experience lasts two weeks and takes place during the second year of the program. This program is unique to the university, and distinguishes it from many other physical therapy programs from around the country. “When I came here to interview, I really liked that the broadening experience is a requirement in our course load, compared to other PT programs that give you the opportunity, but don’t make you go” said Lucas Bartone, a second year in the program. Lucas will be joining several of his classmates in Italy for their broadening experience in March of 2017.

The class of 2018 is currently in the midst of planning their trips, some of which will be taken this winter while other students, like Lucas, will be waiting until the spring to travel. Along with the Italy trip, other experiences include a mission trip to Guatemala, as well as a trip to Peru. A few of the physical therapy students will be going on an inter-professional trip to Jamaica in January. In this experience, the three physical therapy students will be traveling to Jamaica with nursing and pharmacy students from URI. They will be working together to service orphan children and teach caretakers safer healthcare practices. Second year Kelsey Lotti says that “The greatest part about broadening isn’t the places you see, but about the opportunity you are given to experience PT in a realm that you don’t see every day in the classroom.” Kelsey completed her broadening experience in Florida last January. In Florida, Kelsey and her classmates dove into the field of sports medicine by touring the facilities of the Tampa Bay Lightning and working at the Disney Marathon.

The broadening experience truly gives students the opportunity to experience the world of physical therapy in a way that they could never get from just sitting in a classroom. It opens the students’ eyes, and allows them to grow, not only as clinicians and students, but as people.

National Student Conclave

The 2016 National Student Conclave (NSC) in Miami, FL was an opportunity to learn about our future as professionals and to network with others in our field. Professional development came in the form of professional presentations, including “The Secret Sauce to Treating Patients in Pain,” “Demystifying the Neurologic Patient,” and “Be a Diagnostic Detective.” Professionals in each of these presentations discussed how we can strive to do more and address the needs of our patients. With their knowledge and experience we were able to take the theory of what is taught and apply it to practice. However, the education did not just occur in the presentations. NSC has physical therapy and physical therapy assistant students from all over the country, each bringing their own insight of what physical therapy means to them. Sharing what we learn and how we’re learning it reminds us that we’re a part of a larger community that extends beyond our classrooms.

I was lucky enough to share our program with other students from all over the country including Texas, Minnesota, and Washington. I learned about their program and how they all struggled in class, it’s universal. Despite that struggle, each student’s passion and story of what brought them to physical therapy was so distinct. We’re all here for the same reason: because we want to help get people better and we chose physical therapy as the means to achieve our goals.

-Alexander Dien, SPT



From left to right: Justin Jacapraro, Hannah Walton, Alexander Dien

Save the Date:



CSM

February 15-18th 2017
San Antonio, Texas

Commencement
URI DPT Class of 2017
May 20th, 2017

NEXT
Conference & Exposition
June 21-24th, 2017
Boston, MA

Alumni Event
June 23rd, 2017

10

Upcoming Events and Accolades

Spring 2017 Events

- Interviews for prospective students January 3 & 4, 2017
- CSM - San Antonio February 15-18, 2017
- URI Graduate School Research Conference April 8, 2017
- NEXT - Boston June 21-24, 2017
- URI Alumni Reception during NEXT - Boston Location TBD Friday June 23, 2017

Accolades

- 2016 Dr. Ruth J.E. Jones Award for Excellence in Physical Therapy Study
 - Lisa Portis
- University of Rhode Island Physical Therapy Department Distinguished Lecturer
 - Dr. Irene Davis
- Mark J. Rowinski Research Excellence Award
 - Magdalene Deardorff, Jenna Fitsimmons, and Jarred Smith
- Faculty Recognition Award
 - Abbey Lamb
- Academic Excellence Award
 - Laura Costa



Mission



URI PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Physical Therapy faculty is dedicated to graduating doctors of physical therapy competent in providing physical therapy to a variety of patient/client populations in Rhode Island and nationwide; who value the need for and use of evidence in practice; who are committed to professional development through life-long learning; and are active contributors to their professional and social communities. The faculty aspires to advance the theory and practice of physical therapy and provide service to the University, State, and Nation, through works that promote the profession, interacting communities and related disciplines.

The program is highly selective and seeks candidates who exhibit a combination of success in the sciences, a broad understanding of physical therapy practice, dedication to their community, and potential for success in the Program. The curriculum is designed to challenge students toward excellence in clinical practice, professional behavior, and service.